Go Forward — Chapel

SHALL THE CHURCH GO FORWARD.

Phil. 3:14 "press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

If the world is not Christianized, it will become paganized. What will happen if the U.S. becomes pagan?

1. What do we mean by pagan? Non-Xn worship, such as the worship of idols and other gods? Such paganism is due merely to ignorance which can be corrected thru enlightenment.

The paganism I have in mind is infinitely mre ded deadly in its influence. The paganism I have in mind is the domination of fear, suspicion, distrust and greed which, at the present time is threatening the safety of the world. Peaple everywhere governed by fear of each other, suspicion about each other, and the desire to gain from each other.

The U. is not exempt from it.

Suspicioning Pres. Harding as mixed up with oil scandal.

What is the trouble between capital and labor?
Paganism-fear of each other, unwillingness to trust each other, one seeking to gain advantage over the other.

What constitutes the black problem of our county?
The same pagan fear and suspicion.

What is the cause of the boot-legging industry, and all the lawlessness that goes with it?
Pagan greed and selfishness.

This paganism is threatening the world.

1. The paganism of fear, suspicion and greed caused the world war.
2. The same paganism is stamping the patterns of war upon the minds and wills of men today with increased subtlty and power.
   Organizations advocating increased armament.
   Writers stirring up the flames of race and class hatreds.
   Modern industrialism exploiting life in heathen lands. Cotton factories in China.
   Statesmen, so-called, of the nations, again playing the game of suspicioning and distrusting one another in order to gain some national advantage over the others.

B. The Apostle Paul faced a pagan world in his day and staked his life on what he believed to be the only remedy. Read text above.

When the great Roman Empire fell to pieces because of its paganism of fear, selfishness and greed, it was Xty that enabled a civilization to arise out of the universal chaos and place humanity where it is to-day.

And I make bold to assert that Xty, and Xty alone, can again save the world from paganism.

What is Xty, but just the opposite of paganism?

Instead of fear Xty is confidence:
Instead of distrust, it is trust:
Instead of suspicion, it is faith:
Instead of selfishness and greed, it isservice and sacrifice.

The two great words of the N.T. are Faith and Love. The Faith that trusts: the Love that helps and serves.

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world
Love conquers all things and casts out fear.

Without faith in God and man, without love to God and man there is no salvation either for the individual, society or the world. This Faith and Love we find guaranteed to us in Jesus Christ who is the heart and essence of our Xty.

C. The only organized agency for the propagation and spread of Xty in the world is the Church of Jesus Christ.

Now you are ready for the question that is before us, "Shall the Church go forward?"

1. In the face of the world crisis and cognizant of the one-only remedy that can heal our pagan-sick world, our pagan-sick U.S., our pagan-sick industrial society, our pagan-sick communities and our pagan-sick selves, we can answer the question, if we be Xns, in only one way. In the words of Paul we must say, "press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

2. The great Foreign Missionary Enterprise is in peril.
A unified co-operative effort of Protestantism.
A common plight. All Boards face heavy deficits.

Methodist face deficit of	$1,200,000.
Baptist-	661,000.
Episcopal	952,000.
Presbyterian	1,250,000.

If this deficit is not met, the work must be cut down. But where will you cut? Practically every station in the foreign field is strategic. Here we have so may churches and schools and hospitals we hardly notice it when one is closed down. But not so on the foreign field.

Say, shall we close our hos~~i~~ptal in Meshed?
Its beds are occupied with patients from all ~~Asia~~ western and central Asia.
The nearest station to it westward is 700 m.
The nearest southeast 2000 miles.
Directly east 3000 miles.
Northwest, none until you come to Pekin.

Say, shall we withdraw our missionaries from Japan?
The critical situation there. Japan, the leaders of Asia. Open to Xn influence.
We simply cannot go back. We must press forward!
Christ never commanded us to retrench, but to go forward!
Our local missionay society will visit the Presby. constituency for a special offering to cover the deficit of our church.

Con. The cartoon in the last Literary Digest.
The storm of controversy now raging.
Above the storm towers the Cross of Christ.
"I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me"